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VOLUME 1 — NO. 7 MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT JULY, 1966

OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNOR BABCOCK

Open Letter to
Governor Tim Babcock,
Montana Capitol,
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor:

We, the Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association, feel that after the setting of the bag limit for the coming deer season, some steps should be taken to preserve some of our game herds.

We have been against a two deer limit in our areas 30, 31, 32, 33, and 321 of the present game map for the past three years. We also feel that at the present rate that our area attracts an over-abundance of hunters and another season would present very serious problems.

We presented our proposal to the Fish and Game Commission at the May 23 and 24 meeting in Helena with no results.

Now we feel it is time for a change! We feel that the resignation of Ed Leipheimer and Frank Dunkle would be a step in the right direction. Mr. Leipheimer cannot be spending much time in the field or he would be better acquainted with the situation. We don't think he gave proper consideration to our proposal at the Commission meeting, as the Skyline Sportsmen's Association of Butte asked the same bag limits as the Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association did.

We have talked with many of our area residents, ranchers and sportsmen, who do not belong to our organization and they feel that something should be done to preserve our game animals for the future generations.

Mr. Dunkle has sat back and watched what has been going on with full knowledge of the lack of game in this area.

We would like to see men in these positions spend time in the field, who would consider the amount of revenue collected from hunters from licenses.

We would appreciate your full consideration on these issues.

Thank you,
Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association
Dillon, Montana

The Governor agreed to look into the proposal made to the Commission on the 23 and 24 of May by the Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association concerning the one-deer bag limit in Beaverhead county.

The Governor also agreed that it is our responsibility to preserve big game for the future generations.

Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association
Blaz Lugar, President
Dillon, Montana

OPEN LETTER TO A SPORTSMAN

Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association, Dillon
Blaz Lugar, President
Dear Blaz:

The Fish and Game Department and Commission have the responsibility of managing game not just for this year and next, but for future generations of Montanans. Regardless of the individual concerned, this responsibility will always remain, and the goal will be management of the resource, in this case the deer, in a manner that meets the needs and requirements of the resource itself. This is management in the public interest, insuring future perpetuation.

This responsibility of management on behalf of the people does not also provide the miraculous power to say to the deer, "Go forth and multiply." Other basic things are necessary.

The management of living, renewable resources starts right at the ground, the topsoil which grows the plants deer must have for food. Healthy deer have high reproductive rates. Deer forced to subsist on second and third rate plant growth because they have eaten their preferred foods to obliteration have very low reproductive rates, and are susceptible to death from malnutrition.

Plant life grows very slowly, and plant over-use does contribute to the loss of topsoil, which permanently damages any range. To have deer in any amount we must have winter ranges in good condition to sustain them through the tough winter months. Overall, the winter ranges in Beaverhead county are in very poor condition, although some specific areas may be better or worse than others.

Any land use has a relationship with all living and non-living aspects of that land. All these things enter into resource management and must be kept in mind lest there be a tendency to oversimplify a very complex subject.

Annual district harvest regulations must be geared to match deer in

that area closely to the condition of the land, and the plants that give those deer adequate nourishment. Not to establish such regulations would be unrealistic and contribute to the future depletion of the deer herd. The facts dictate that Montana areas with multiple bag limits need that kind of harvest.

There are less deer in many areas than several years ago when immensely increased herds were depleting food growth on their winter ranges. Massive die-offs due to malnutrition began reducing these deer, and multiple deer seasons put many animals in the hands of hunters instead of going to waste dead on hillsides. Multiple deer seasons are now assisting the maintenance of stable deer herds as a factor in attempting to prevent future large scale malnutrition disasters.

The preservation of Montana deer in numbers above future zoo curiosities is exactly what commission regulations and department programs are geared to do. This program must, and does, take into consideration range conditions on critical winter areas.

The Fish and Game Commission and Department always welcomes the views of any group, but when these views are contrary to what scientifically established facts show, then the interests of that group must give way to the best interests of the people of Montana and the preservation of the resource for all time.

It is natural that any area containing a huge percentage of public land and receiving national sporting magazine publicity for an overabundance of deer in the past would also receive a large amount of attention from hunters. If the deer herds are managed as we must, on a sound basis consistent with what the land will support year after year, then it is likely that hunter attention will follow proportionately.

In this day and age of public awareness of the importance of natural resources, and scientific advances beyond our wildest dreams a few years ago, it should come as a surprise to no one that the public should not and will no longer tolerate management manipulation on any basis except truth and facts.

Sincerely,
Frank H. Dunkle

Montana Wildlife Federation Formulates Water Policy

The nation's growing need for water is coming ever more in the focus of public attention. Covetous plans of heavily populated and industrialized areas to utilize excess water from moisture rich states has prompted mountain states to review their own needs more carefully. It appears that several of the better watered states like Montana are lacking in substantial plans as to how this important resource should best be used.

The Montana Wildlife Federation is one of the forward looking organizations which feels recreation, a non-consumptive water user, has a large stake in planning priorities for the use of water, one of our most valuable assets. Following is a Water Resources Policy adopted by the Federation:

The Montana Wildlife Federation believes that management and use of Montana's water resources must be consistent with the integrated long-range needs of the people of Montana and the nation.

The Federation believes that water-resource planning based on short-term, stop-gap developments, on obsolete custom, or on the perpetuation of vested-interest minorities is unrealistic in the context of current and future requirements of Montana and the nation.

The Federation further believes that: Planning for optimum water use requires consideration of Montana's position in respect to national and local population trends and distribution, area topography, climatic conditions, and historical transportation problems.

Planning for optimum water use must be founded on the knowledge that social, aesthetic, and recreational uses of water represent legitimate human values fully equivalent to economic values.

In a national perspective it is highly probable that quality outdoor recreation is the geographically determined optimum use of Montana's remaining free-flowing waterways.

Heavily populated, arid states look covetously toward the water-rich mountain states.

For these reasons, the Montana Wildlife Federation is convinced that water resource planning and the subsequent legal framework for insuring acceptable water use must evolve from:

1. Recognition of recreational wildlife use as a statutory beneficial use of water.

2. Recognition that recreational wildlife use of water is basically nonconsumptive: water thus utilized remains available for other uses. Maintenance of water quality appropriate for optimum recreational use will increase its value for other uses, including domestic, industrial, and irrigation.

3. Recognition that optimum wildlife and recreational values frequently demand the retention of natural environments.

4. Recognition that adequate and bona fide wildlife and recreational representation must be included in the planning and operational stages of water-resource development projects.

5. Recognition that water-resource development enhancing one legitimate use does not automatically enhance other legitimate uses.

6. Recognition that the current, relative values of various water-resource uses are not static but can be expected to vary in accordance with changing human demands.

7. Recognition of the need for immediate establishment of national and state water-quality standards to

protect public health and welfare. These standards should provide for:

(a) potential as well as existing use or uses;

(b) upgrading of streams or portions thereof that are presently affected by pollution;

(c) maintenance and protection of waters now of high quality;

(d) control of all relevant pollution sources, such as, municipal and industrial effluents, irrigation return flows, discharges from impoundments or other facilities that alter water temperatures, and any activities contributing to physical disturbance of water channels and watersheds resulting in siltation.

In no case will standards providing for less than existing water quality be acceptable.

8. Recognition of the need for each user of the water resource to do so in an ethical and responsible manner, without waste or pollution detrimental to other legitimate users.

9. Recognition of the need for revision of archaic laws that perpetuate outmoded water uses and impede realistic planning to meet the integrated long-range water requirements of Montana and the nation.

Wilderness, Wild, or Primitive

There are over 2½ million acres of back country in Montana which are destined to remain in a wide open condition, unmutilated by the rigors of civilization. In the past, the areas, which are under supervision of the U.S. Forest Service, have variously been known as "Wilderness, Wild, and Primitive areas." It appears that these various classifications have resulted in public confusion as to what differences there are among these classifications of lands.

The first tag placed on these open areas was "Primitive Areas." The original idea for the establishment of primitive areas was conceived by the Forest Service in the 1920's. At that time it was felt by some farsighted men that the continuing encroachment of civilization would soon destroy the natural beauty and wilderness nature of Montana's great forested areas. Consequently, over the next dozen years, 14½ million acres representing 83 separate tracts were set aside in the United States as official primitive areas for the enjoyment and use of the American public. Motorized vehicle travel, commercial timber cutting, and other forms of activities were prohibited within the areas in order that they would retain their pristine nature. By 1990, all mineral approbations will be phased out.

In the distance, the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness.

In the late 1950's, the Forest Service reclassified some of these primitive areas as "Wild," and "Wilderness" areas according to their sizes. Areas of over 100,000 acres were called Wilderness Areas. Areas less than 100,000 acres were called Wild Areas. These designations were due for another change upon passage of a National Wilderness Act.

The Wilderness Act, passed Sept. 4, 1964, provided that the existing Primitive, Wild, and Wilderness areas were to be reclassified simply as "Wilderness" within ten years of the signing of the act, provided that the lands meet standards set forth in the act. These standards describe such an area as one where man and his own works do not dominate the landscape. It is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

In all areas designated as Wilderness under the provisions of the act, the preservation of wilderness shall be permanent. This means that the areas are not exclusively for wilderness, but that the wilderness values shall be considered of greater importance to the people than other interests. It does not prevent their use for purposes that will not threaten them as wilderness.

Hunting and fishing provide recreation and, therefore, are allowed in areas designated as wilderness and also in primitive areas which are still awaiting reclassification. The only stipulation in conjunction with this is that access into Wilderness shall be allowed only by means of non-motorized transportation. In other words, two-footed and four-footed critters are welcome so long as they use their own feet for locomotion.

In Montana there are nine areas which are classified as "Primitive" or "Wilderness" areas. The first of such areas to be established was the Mission Mountains Primitive Area located between Missoula and Kalispell, in the Flathead National Forest. This area was established in 1931 and since that time eight other areas have been added. These eight areas and their correct present designation are: the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, the Beartooth Primitive Area, the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, and the Spanish Peaks Primitive Area.

The purpose of wilderness is to provide recreational, scenic, educational, conservation and historical use and enjoyment by the people. In Montana there are 2,B89,477 acres in which Montanans and their guests can observe and enjoy the beauty and ruggedness of a near primitive land. With this much area to wander around in the odds of running into your neighbor are pretty slim. Let's take advantage of it.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

The Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park has become one of Montana's outstanding attractions. Each year the number of people taking the guided tour through the Caverns exceeds the previous year from five to ten percent. In 1965, the number of persons taking the tour reached a record total of nearly 65,000. So far this year we are ahead of 1965 for the same period and it is likely that this will turn out to be another record year.

The Caverns are located fifteen miles east of Whitehall, 20 miles west of Three Forks or 50 miles east of Butte off Highway U.S. 10. The Caverns are situated in relatively high country. The parking area is 5,309 feet above sea level and 1072 feet above the main highway. Geographically, the Caverns are located in a small range known as the Jefferson Mountains. The Jefferson River, which describes the south boundary of Jefferson county, flows below Cave Mountain to the south.

The first white men known to have gone through the Canyon were 33 members fo the Lewis and Clark expedition, west bound in the summer of 1805. The Caverns were given the name Lewis & Clark in honor of this expedition; however, the party was never aware of the Caverns' location. This was also Indian country. Today, the discovery of Indian artifacts is not uncommon in the Caverns area. Indian campsites occur with regularity in the draws on the edge of the Jefferson Range.

According to available records, the Caverns were first noted in 1892. Two young ranchers were deer hunting when they came around Cave Mountain and decided to do some exploration at the base of the mountain cliff. During their exploration they stumbled onto the discovery hole. A few rocks tossed into the opening indicated that this was no ordinary hole in the ground. They left, intending to return, but it was six years before they got back to the discovery hole. Lowering themselves with ropes and using candles for illumination, they spent several hours underground. From this beginning the Caverns have now developed into a popular attraction for thousands of visitors each year.

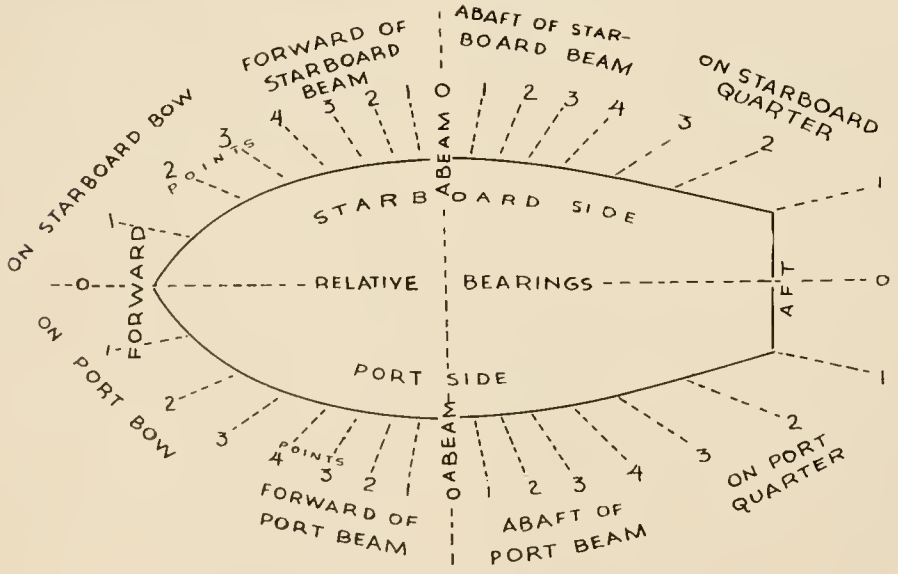
The guided tour through the Caverns is an experience visitors will not soon forget. Excellent guides are available and the tour parties are held to approximately 25 persons. Parties are spaced and no one waits longer than 30 minutes for the trip to begin. At the Headquarters Building the party boards a jeep train which makes like a diesel along the mountain side. After leaving the train the party is then hoisted up a cable car some 435 feet to the cave entrance. From there the guide escorts the party through the Caverns pointing out the many fantastic and picturesque formations throughout the underground journey.

After the grand finale in the Paradise Room parties follow the exit tunnel some 538 feet. This returns parties to the point of beginning where they again board the train and return to the Headquarters Building. The entire trip takes approximately one and one-half hours and provides a most enjoyable experience for persons of all ages.

The Caverns open on the first of May each year and close on September 30. For the guided tour the charge is $1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children age six through 13. During the period June 16 through Labor Day the Caverns are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Picnic and camping facilities are available nearby. Light lunches and novelties may be purchased at the Cafe-Curio Shop.

Paradise Room in Lewis and Clark Caverns.



Relative bearings figured on a 32 point system.

Nautical Nomenclature

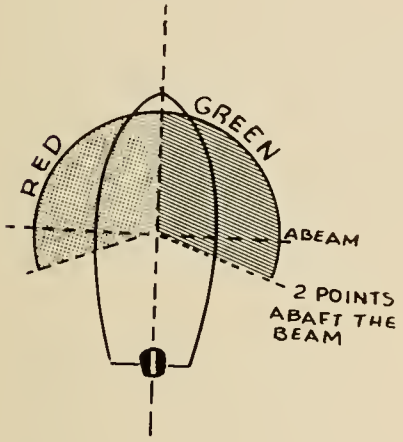
Hey Harry, where did you put the paddle? By the thing-a-ma-jig in the back of the boat. Left side? No, on the right side.

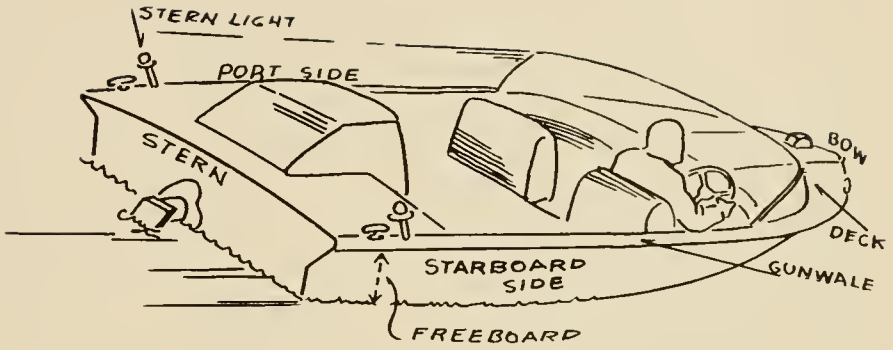
Such nomenclature would cause an old salt to abandon ship, but to us landlubbers who don't get on the water but a few times out of the year it's acceptably descriptive. There are a number of terms, however, that would be handy in the boat owner's vocabulary. A few terms will help understand boat lighting and other regulations. Words can impress the little woman too. O.K. Mabel, get off the gunwale and belay the bowline to a cleat! Imagine Mabel's expression.

Nearly all motor boats of the size

found in Montana are required by state law to exhibit the following lights when underway during hours of darkness.

A bright light aft to show all around the horizon. A combined lantern in the fore-part of the vessel and lower than the white light aft,





showing green to starboard and red to port, so fixed as to throw the light from right ahead to two points abaft the beam on their respective sides.

Every white light shall be of such character as to be visible at a distance of at least two miles. Every colored light shall be of such character as to be visible at a distance of at least one mile. The word "visible" when applied to light, shall be visible on a dark night with a clear atmosphere.

When propelled by sail **and** machinery any such motorboat shall carry the lights required for a motorboat propelled by machinery only.

FOREST FIRES & GAME HABITAT

During the recent meeting of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners in Butte, a number of interesting presentations were made. One paper given by Jack Lyon, produced by himself and Peter Stickney, in conjunction with the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, dealt with forest fires as a means of producing big game habitat. It has long been recognized that forest fires have played a key role in producing big game range but there is still comparatively little knowledge about the controlled use of fire in game range management.

Following is a summary of the paper prepared by Mr. Lyons and Mr. Stickney:

Most of the big game ranges of western Montana and northern Idaho were created by uncontrolled forest fires. Between 1910 and 1934, wildfires devastated more than 4.5 million acres of timber land in the northern Rockies. While the initial destruction of trees and damage to watersheds was disastrous, some of the shrub vegetation which developed after these fires proved to be tremendously productive big game range. Elk populations in Montana and Idaho swelled, during the late 1940's and early 1950's to a peak probably never equalled on forest lands in North America.

During the past 15 years this trend has been reversed. Forest vegetation is continuously changing, and the inevitable consequence of plant growth has been a decline in both shrub ranges and associated big game herds. Some shrubs have disappeared under a canopy of timber while others have simply grown out of reach of animals. Use of remaining ranges has intensified and significant damage to soils and winter range vegetation is all too common. In the face of increasing demands for wildlife oriented recreation, animal numbers are actually decreasing. Unless this trend is reversed, the full potential of an important big game resource will be shamefully wasted—to the ultimate detriment of a region in which outdoor recreation has a greater potential for expansion than any other resource use.

Available evidence establishes a strong historical precedent for the belief that fire could be an important tool in rebuilding declining big game ranges. History also shows, however, that uncontrolled fire in the forest can cause destructive loss of timber and intolerable soil erosion. Thus, while it seems axiomatic that repetition of the damaging wildfires that created current game ranges cannot be allowed, the use of planned or prescribed fires on a smaller scale is at least possible. Since fire already has a demonstrated utility in slash disposal and site preparation for silvicultural purposes, some very fortunate possibilities for coordination of timber and wildlife management can be postulated.

The basic problem is that wildland managers lack definitive information on the effects of burning. Before fire can be used in wildlife habitat management we must understand what it can do, what it cannot do, and, most important, we must be able to predict results of proposed treatments. Despite a long history of fires in the northern Rockies, our specific knowledge of vegetal reaction to fire is limited.

Studies were undertaken on two burned over areas to determine their ultimate effects on vegetation changes.

The Sleeping Child Fire

The Sleeping Child Fire of 1961 is a too familiar memory for many residents of western Montana. It was started by lightning on the evening of August 4 and went out of control the next day. When finally contained, the fire had burned over 28,000 acres of second growth timber, including both summer and winter range areas for deer and elk of the Bitterroot Valley.

Vegetation on the Sleeping Child burn is developing very slowly. The total canopy cover of low vegetation after four years has barely reached half the level existing before the fire. This is extremely significant when it is recognized that approximately half of this cover is provided by seeded domestic grasses. Soil movement on the burned area has been substantial despite a rehabilitation program including aerial seeding, check dams and terracing. It seems probable that erosion could have been much worse if the burn had been allowed to recover naturally.

Second, the native plants present in the burned area include only those species present b e f o r e the fire. Spiraea and huckleberry total over 90 percent of the shrub density and more than half of the crown volume. Moreover, the recovery of these plants has been so slow that it was necessary to measure 6-inch plants to o b t a i n any estimate of crown volume at all. Thus, the shrub forage available to big game animals is minimal and annual forage production, which was probably quite low before the fire, has been reduced substantially. There is every indication that it will remain low for many years.

The Neal Canyon Fire

Our second study is a prescribed burn in which diseased and worthless standing timber was destroyed to make room for a new timber crop. Only 120 acres were involved, but the fire was considered equivalent to wildlife in a Douglas-fir forest because it was burned under conditions ideal for crown-to-crown transmission of flames and complete reduction of surface vegetation.

Vegetation in Neal Canyon was more dense and included a considerably greater variety of species than the Sleeping Child area.

Vegetal recovery on this burned site, by comparison with the Sleeping Child burn, was spectacularly fast. In a single year, shrub volume on Neal Canyon had almost reached the level attained on the Sleeping Child in four years. In the second year, two-thirds of the prefire volume was present. Live ground cover reached 27 percent in the first year, and in two years it was 69 percent—nearly double the cover before the fire. At the same time, there were significant changes in the composition of the shrub community and in the availability of f o r a g e for big game animals.

The prescribed burn in Neal Canyon was apparently successful in every aspect. Timber management objectives were achieved, wildlife habitat was markedly improved, and watershed protection was not compromised.

Comparison of the two fires leads to a number of conclusions about the potential use of fire as a wildlife habitat management tool in the northern Rockies. Neal Canyon demonstrates, first, that fire can be successfully employed to restore or improve a declining shrub range. At the same time, Sleeping Child demonstrates the possibility of disastrous failure. Somewhere between these two extremes is a wide variety of sites on which perceptible improvement in wildlife habitat might be achieved without significant damage to other resources.

At this point, we do not have sufficient information to identify all such sites. Moreover, our information is inadequate to allow prediction of the useful life of any new habitat created by controlled burning. On the other hand, current information is adequate for identification of sites on which either extreme of possible results might occur. Given only four kinds of information, it should be possible to recognize sites on which prescribed fire can be successfully employed.

1. Shrub crown volume, as an indicator of current production and potential recovery rate, should be high on areas to be rehabilitated.
2. Species composition should indicate a p o t e n t i a l for success. Species with high resprouting vigor should appear on areas to be rehabilitated.
3. If both crown volume and species composition suggest a poor potential result, samples of duff and soil may provide indications of stored seed, particularly of ceanothus, that will insure success.
4. Soils should be investigated for high erodibility. This may not make the use of fire impossible, but unstable soils will require greater care in the use of fire.

Yellowstone River Ride

A dugout canoe, overgrown innertubes, all sizes and shapes of rafts, Boston Whalers, a bull boat, canoes of every description, and regular outboard pleasure craft could be seen floating down the Yellowstone River between Livingston and Billings July 8th through 10th. This was the scene of the Third Annual Yellowstone Boat Float sponsored by the Jaycees and mayors of the towns and cities along the river.

The float trip was kicked off in Livingston on Friday morning with a pancake breakfast. With all the excitement of a great adventure ahead the people loaded their boats in the water and were off on the first part of the journey. After much fun and lots of water the h u n g r y group stopped at Springdale for lunch and a rest in the shade. Eager to travel on to greater things the floaters pushed off on the next leg of the journey. The float stopped the first night in Big Timber where they could be seen camping near their boats.

Better than 200 boats participated in this fun and exciting boat trip. In the boats were people from all over the country with half the states represented and even one man from far away Norway. Every age group was represented from very small children to grandmothers. Some of the people really got into the swing of things by wearing buckskin frontier outfits, one even complete to the papoose on her back. Although these outfits added to the festivities a great deal they were probably rather uncomfortable in the hot July sun.

Pleasure craft dot the Yellowstone where bull boats once carried Indians.

Among the dignitaries that made the float were the members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Commission, the mayors of the cities along the float, and the great-great grandson of Captain William Clark, one of the first white men on the river.

The float down the river is a good chance for lazy boating on the river, some excellent blue ribbon fishing, real excitement on any of the many rapids, and some very beautiful breathtaking views. There is also much wildlife—g e e s e , deer and herons—along the river that could be seen.

Since many of the people on the float had not had much experience in rapids, occasional craft were

One of the Livingston jumping off points for the annual Yellowstone float trip.

noted to have capsized. Although it was a wet event it did not dampen the spirits of the lively floaters who, after getting picked out of the water, would dry out a little and go on down the river. The fish and game personnel fished many a wet river rat out of the drink along with the aid of the Livingston "5 Watters" and Billings "Minutemen Search and Rescue Units."

Some of the groups had more than their share of gremlins. The raft from Laurel loaded with Jaycees ran out of gasoline three times and then their motor broke down. If a dunking award was to be given away it would have to go to an air force pontoon raft which knocked out a motor, rammed into a log, and at Columbus hit a bridge and overturned. Hardy was the group on it though for they pushed on all the way to Billings where they landed whole and hearty.

The interest in the float along the river was very high. Bridges were lined with people who were watching the float. On the float were reporters from several national magazines, a national news film photographer making a film for television, a Billings TV station cameraman, and a Montana Fish and Game film crew shooting the final scenes for a forthcoming film "Yellowstone River State Recreational Waterway."

Lunch the third day was eaten at Sportsmans Park just up river from Laurel and the awards were given out during the rest. These included the crowning of the queen of the Riverrats. When the ceremony was over the group continued on down the river to Billings and the end of the journey.

Walking on to shore Sunday evening came a tired, sunburned, hungry, wet, but none the less happy for the experience, group of Riverrats. In spite of the work involved in the float it was great fun and many a person could be heard to say, "Wouldn't miss it next year for the world."

Crime—Conceived in Mind, Not in Weapon

The advocates of firearm legislation no doubt have very good intentions, and certainly laws can be formulated which are both fair to Americans and at the same time of benefit for the safe traffic and use of guns. Yet, it seems that proponents of severely restrictive legislation who propose to stamp out illicit use of guns by making them hard to come by are overlooking a fundamental fact—crime is conceived in the mind, not in the weapon. It would seem then that energies could better be expended on the basic causes of crime rather than upon instruments which the mind has conceived to use in criminal acts.

In an interview with J. Edgar Hoover, Richard Starnes gathered some very pertinent facts which should cause persons, and parents especially, to search deeper for a remedy other than a strict ban on firearms to quell the nation's growing incidence of crime.

Mr. Hoover pointed out that the percentage of crimes committed by youngsters under 18 years of age is rising much more rapidly than the population, percentagewise, in the age group from 10 to 17. He stated "The distressing factor in youth crime problems is the fact that youthful criminal acts are not only growing in numbers, but also increasing in violence. Unabated, this horde of youthful criminals today will form the cadre of full-time adult criminals in the years ahead . . . ."

What did Mr. Hoover believe was the cause for the growing crime rate in this "cadre of tomorrow's criminals?" He stated, "The steady growth of the nation's crime problem is not attributable to any s i n g l e social or economic factor. Rather, a combination of influences is involved. The principal one is breakdown of the home.

More than 70 percent of the arrests for serious crimes throughout the United States involve persons under 25. (This was in 1964). The common denominator in the cases of these young offenders has been parental neglect. There are exceptions; but they are rare. During their early formative years, our nation's youth desperately need the security and the moral guidance which a sound home provides . . . " "The so-called 'good home' often is not a good home at all with respect to the proper training of the children in the home. In case after case of juvenile crime which we have reviewed in the FBI we find one common factor—parental neglect. This is true whether the juvenile comes from a broken home, from a family in the lowest strata of society or

from a family of considerable affluence and education. Often prominent and highly respected individuals are total failures as parents. They are so engrossed in their own affairs they ignore the needs of their children.

In many respects, juveniles today are victims of a society where indulgence has replaced discipline. Their parents cater to their every whim and cringe at even the thought of having to discipline them. And they are provided with an endless stream of excuses for all their misdeeds by the small but vocal assortment of bleeding hearts who infest communities all across our nation. They have no sense of responsibility and no respect for authority . . ."

"Above all, the wise parent will personally satisfy his child's greatest want—the need for an example and model of good reputation, good living and good citizenship. Today's youth need not become victims of the unparalleled freedom and material benefits they enjoy, if only thinking parents will take the time and effort to afford the youngsters a proper perspective and sense of values . . . "

But Mr. Hoover doesn't lay the entire blame at the doorstep of the American home. He had this to say about the handling of criminal cases by some of the judiciary. "One of the most serious problems facing the American public relative to criminal justice is the apparently unrealistic attitude evidenced by some members of the judiciary who appear to be more concerned for the 'rights' of repeating criminal offenders than for the unfortunate members of the public who are victimized by unrehabilitated burglars, robbers, rapists and murderers.

The weakness in our handling of repeating offenders has become a source of severe discouragement to many alarmed citizens and has even caused veteran law enforcement officers to throw up their hands in despair . . . "

It is not the intent of this article to dwell upon socialogical problems, nor to poke holes in our judiciary system. The point is that the problem of crime involves extremely complicated sociological, economical, and emotional factors of human evolution. It cannot be simply tied to the availability of firearms. Incidentally, firearms were used in only 4% of the 2.6 million serious crimes recorded by the FBI in 1964.

The pattern has been set and there will, no doubt, be a growing number of legislative proposals for the control of firearms—some good, some bad. It is imperative that citizens consider all aspects of such legislation before deciding which laws they must live with.

Fur-Feathers-Fins

Fisheries & Wildlife Report From Victoria, Australia

From Australia comes this note of interest which has a familiar ring.

"The Government has now ceased to pay bonuses on wombats scalps for a trial period of three years. This is good news for two reasons. Firstly, the wombat is an interesting specimen of our marsupials. Secondly, the bonus system of control has proved inefficient and has been discredited in most countries.

It is acknowledged that the wombat does damage fences, but the $6,000 spent in bounty payments can be better spent in direct control where damage occurs rather than in trapping in wild country where a lot of bonus scalps have been taken."

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